

Kickstart Program For Care Leavers

23rd November 2021

Corporate Parenting Board

What Is Kickstart?

- A scheme that provides funding in order to create new job placements for 16-24 year olds who are on **Universal Credits** who are at risk for long term unemployment.
- Any job placement created for the scheme, must be a new job, it must not replace any existing or planned vacancies, including apprenticeships.
- Central Government will fund 100% of the National Minimum Wage (or the National Living Wage depending on the age of the participant) for 25 hours per week for a total of 6 months, plus NI & Pension contributions.
- DWP are responsible for matching available young people on Universal credit to created vacancies. The YP must be referred by their job coach at the job centre and signed of as “Work Ready” The process typically takes 4-6 weeks.
- **Support for candidate**
 - Wrap around support for the job placement will be offered via Worcestershire County Council Adult and Community Education Team – Judy Chadwick’s team.
 - This is an opportunity for a young person to gain experience so that they can move on to a longer term position internally or be successful in applying elsewhere.

What have we achieved?

- Referrals are coming through and Care leavers are applying
- WCF have a total of 5 posts which are:
- 3 posts at the family front door
- A mentor post for care leavers who are parents
- A mentor post for Care leavers who have been involved in criminality

Case Study-Nathan

- Nathan is a care leaver and is 24 years old
- Became looked after at 16. GRT background, family well known to CS.
- Was released from a 4 year custodial sentence Aug 2020. Remains on licence with probation, however reduced from High risk to Medium.
- Since release he has rebuilt his support network via the church and local volunteering opportunities.
- During custody he volunteered for many different rep roles and developed respecting other views and reflecting upon these and was keen to advocate for others.
- Nathan has been identified for a Kickstart role within WCF for improving and developing the service for those on the edge of custody, during and/or after release and to influence and shape the service from his experience.



What about
those who do
not meet the
criteria?

- Drop ins for care leavers
- Mentoring
- Group work
- Social media
- Apprenticeships